

TEAM Spirit

**TORAS EMES
ACADEMY OF MIAMI**
Samuel Aba & Sisel Klurman
Elementary School

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Friday, March 25, 2011
Candle Lighting 7:16 PM

פרשת שמייני
שבת פרה

★STAR STUDENTS★

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Shira Adar – S.S. | Yosef Alber – T.S. |
| Ariella Aronov – T.S. | Avrohom Dennis – T.S. |
| Rebecca Balgley – S.S. | Ephraim Dudovitz – S.S. |
| Racheli Breier – T.S. | Yackov Greenberg – T.S. |
| Ariella Fellus – S.S. | Reuven Dovid Lefkowitz – S.S. |
| Sora Chana Gruenstein – S.S. | Yehuda Pomper – S.S. |
| Atara Laks – T.S. | Simcha Seltzer – T.S. |
| Rivky Lefkowitz – T.S. | Elisha Steinberger – S.S. |
| Debbie Nash – S.S. | Aryeh Leib Thav – T.S. |
| Elisheva Raab – S.S. | |
| Lea Riesel – S.S. | |

TEAM PLAYERS

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Shua Braunschweiger | Leah Baroukh |
| Danny Breier | Sarah Buzaglo |
| Yitzi Eisenberger | Elisheva El-Gad |
| Yehuda Gassner | Rivka Goldenberg |
| Yechiel Goldman | Shira Goldenberg |
| Rafael Haimov | Sarah Feige Goodman |
| Dani Levy | Naomi Kalchman |
| Eli Mizrahi | Rebecca Katz |
| Yaacov Suissa | Simcha Leonoff |
| Aryeh Leib Thav | Esti Newman |
| | Rivka Shemesh |
| | Yocheved Sobol |

SHUSHAN
PURIM
ACTIVITES



An absolutely fabulous time was had by all this past Monday at our

Shushan Purim celebration, including carnival, costume parade/contest, barbecue and talent show! .

Our chef extraordinaire, Rabbi Yitzchak Teitelbaum, once again provided us all with delicious grilled hot dogs for our barbecue lunch! Thank you Rabbi Teitelbaum!

Many, many thanks to all of the teachers and helpful volunteers who added to the great enjoyment and success of this day:

- Mrs. Shanit Corcos
- Mrs. Terry Elkayam
- Sarala Dudovitz
- Avigayil Feldman
- Rafi Hersher
- Moshe Kalchman

- Sarah Kaplan
- Abby Laks
- Elisheva Lefkowitz
- Rachel Nemani
- Abby Roness
- Shalom Rottman
- Dovi Schwartz
- Golda Selmar
- Shoshana Shapiro
- Meir Wasserman

If you know of any names we inadvertently left off this list, please inform the office and we will be happy to list them in next week's newsletter.

Mazel Tov to our creative costume contest winners:

SCHOOL WIDE WINNERS:

- Sarah Feige Goodman—Cyborg
- Danny Breier—Chumashbot
- Zev Bistriz—Washing Machine

CLASS WINNERS - GIRLS

- 1G – Rivky Lefkowitz—Chinese Girl
Rivky Sapirman—Baker
2G –R – Tamar Brody—Costume Box
Batel Levi—Cleaning Woman
2G –W – Hadassa Grossman—**"Five"ish**
Avital Nightingale—Queen of Clean
3G – Yocheved Sobol—Shushan Cafe
4G – Miriam Dreyfuss—TEAM Spirit
Shira Feldman — **"Bigsun"**
Tehila Palgon—Brachos Bee
5G – Riki Grossbard—Jelly Belly
Sora Chana Gruenstein—Washing Machine
Shoshana Sapirman—Haman HaDoodle

CLASS WINNERS - BOYS

- 1B—Yehuda Bloom—Agent Emes
Daniel Chattah—Old Lady
2B – Ephraim Dudovitz—Yom Tov Clock
Mendy Itzkowitz—Lego Man
3B – Avraham Homnick—**Avraham's Inn**
Dovid Kaplan—Mummy
Ezra Kirschenbaum—Garbage thrown on Haman
4B – Yossi Rosenberg—Punk
Yosef Steinberg—TV Control
5B – Joshua Hopen—ExPURIMENT
Eli Sandhaus—Bush

BEST COSTUME-TEACHERS/STAFF

Rabbi Schwartz—**Charlotte's Web**

If you have not already done so, please remit \$3 to the office for carnival tickets at once. Thank you!

MISHLOACH MANOS

The faculty and staff of Toras Emes/Toras Chaim greatly appreciate the beautiful *Shalach Manos* Baskets which arrived in time for Purim, thanks to the concerted efforts of our hard-working committee. We also thank all the volunteers who delivered packages on Purim day.



KONEI OLAM

This week we visited Siberia and we learned about different ways to ease the pain of others. We were inspired by the example of Rav Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld who set aside time each week to say Good Shabbos to an elderly widow and lift her spirits.

REGISTRATION 2011-12

If you have not yet registered, we strongly encourage you to register as soon as possible so as to reserve a spot for your child(ren), and to avail yourself of the largest possible tuition reduction available to you. Please be reminded that after April 6th the registration fee increases. As a reminder, in order to facilitate immediate processing, tuition reduction forms and supporting documentation need to be returned together with the registration and fees.

OD YOSEF CHAI

Yasher Koach to all of our students and parents who did such a tremendous job collecting Matanos L'Evyonim for Od Yosef Chai.

We are proud to report that we raised \$3,259.11 this year. *Tizku L'Mitzvos!*

MAZEL TOV

To Rabbi and Mrs. Harayl Askotzky and family on the birth of a daughter.

To Rabbi and Mrs. Elchonon Goldenberg and family on the birth of a granddaughter, born to their daughter, our alumna, Chaya and Yitzi Adelman.





To Mr. and Mrs. Eli Grossbard and family on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Moshe.

To Mr. and Mrs. Baruch Sandhaus and family on the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Shayna to Alex Strassman.



To Dr. and Mrs. Mark Dennis on being honored this Sunday night at the Shaaray Tefilah Annual Dinner.

REFUAH SHELAIMA

- ◆ Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana *bas* Esther Leba
- ◆ Tziporah Feiga *bas* Sima Shaindel
- ◆ Rachel *bas* Bryna
- ◆ Aliza Sara *bas* Chaya Freida
- ◆ Racheli Maya *bas* Shoshana
- ◆ Atara Kreindl Chava *bas* Roiza
- ◆ Leon *ben* Esther
- ◆ Yehuda Pinchas *ben* Asna
- ◆ Aryeh Leib *ben* Genendel

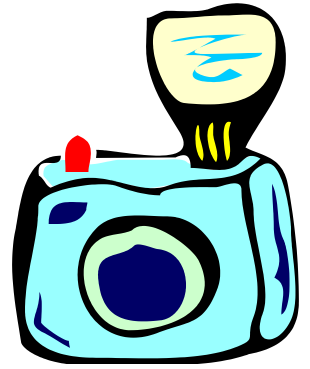
SCIENCE FAIR NEWS

If you have not yet purchased a Science board, they are available in the office for \$5 each. Bear in mind that the fourth and fifth grade Science Fair projects are due this Wednesday, March 29. The Science Fair has been rescheduled for April 4-6. Awards assemblies will take place on April 6.



SCHOOL PICTURES

Packages with your child(ren)'s photos were sent home this week. Please send \$10 to purchase the package, or return the photos, by this Monday, March 28.



ONGOING PROGRAMS

Weekly Parsha Class

Thursday mornings 9:15-10:00AM

In Rabbi Baumann's Office (Girls' Bldg.)

Homework Club

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 4-5PM

Miss Rottman tobirottman@gmail.com

Boys' After School Sports

Monday & Thursday, 4-5PM

Coach Melamed 786.356.8063

Mr. Harkavy 631.612.7532

JAG

Tuesday (1G-3G) & Wednesday (4G&5G), 4:05-5:05PM

Mrs. Selmar 305.479.7269

EXODUS EXPERIENCE

Forms are due back on Tuesday for the School Trip to this fascinating hands-on exhibit. Any questions, please call the office.



**TORAS EMES
ACADEMY OF MIAMI**
Samuel Aba & Sisel Klurman
Elementary School

Rabbi Kalman Baumann
Principal

Dr. Deborah Lerer
Secular Studies Principal

Rabbi Noam Grossman
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Naomi Bloom
Early Childhood Director

Erev Shabbos Parashas Shemini, Parashas Parah 5771

Dear Parents,

In analyzing the classification of birds forbidden to be eaten, as discussed in this week's *Parsha*, the *Ramban* (11:13) points to their possessing a cruel and vicious nature, as one explanation for their prohibition. By consuming and digesting such creatures the person absorbs that cruelty and viciousness, and therefore the Torah forbids them to a Jew. Our mission is to raise ourselves above the animalistic tendencies of the animal world, and by refraining from ingesting the animal, we are insulating ourselves from those characteristics that could drag us down, and stunt our spiritual growth.

There is one forbidden bird, whose inclusion on the prohibited list is a curiosity. In *Perek 11, Pasuk 19* the Torah mentions the *Chasida*, which many translate as a stork. *Rashi* questions why this bird is called a *Chasida*, and he answers it comes from the word *Chesed*, so named because this bird does *Chesed* with her friends, sharing her food with them.

This raises an obvious difficulty; if animals and birds are prohibited to us because of their cruel and destructive nature, how does a creature defined by the *Chesed* she does fall into the same category. A *Baalas Chesed* should be precisely the type of creature that we should be encouraged to eat!

I recall hearing from one of my *Rebbeim* that there is a very powerful lesson here. A careful reading of *Rashi* shows that this bird's *Chesed* is reserved specifically for her friends. The bird is not an equal opportunity *Baalas Chesed* – she only helps her inner circle, her *Chaveiros*. She picks and chooses the recipients of her largesse and benevolence. Therefore what she does is not about true *chesed* – it is about exclusivity and privilege. We can now understand why this bird is prohibited to us – she embodies and represents one of the ugliest *Midos*; that of leaving others out, making them feel like outcasts. You can be kind and loving to your inner circle – but if it doesn't extend to others who are not exactly like you, it's not kindness – it's meanness.

Our children struggle mightily with this tendency. Excluding others or being excluded yourself is amongst the cruelest and most painful facets of childhood. Adults can generally choose precisely with who they want to be. When it comes to our children, however, we place them in a school or camp, and no matter how like minded the other families are; differences in temperament, culture and abilities among the children are realities they have to live with. As parents our role is to strengthen the children; their sensitivity and tolerance of others who may be different, their ability to stand up for fairness and compassion to all, and their inner strength to remain unbowed by others who have not imbibed this lesson. And we need to strengthen ourselves to model these same behaviors; to catch ourselves before verbalizing criticism of others and other groups, of denigrating others' customs or religious standards. Because, what may seem to be intellectual banter among adults, translates into cruelty and pain among the children.

Let's appreciate the beauty and depth of our precious legacy – the *Torah*, and realize that the centrality of *Kashrus* in our religious world is inextricably tied to the centrality of *Midos Tovos* and kindness to others.

Have an inclusive Shabbos!

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

SHUSHAN PURIM 5771



SOME OF OUR AMAZINGLY TALENTED STUDENTS

